



LANCE CPL. ANDREW P. ROUFS

Col. Joseph Wingard, commanding officer, MCLB Albany, congratulates Maj. Daniel R. Sullivan, director, FSD, and other members of the FSD staff, on their accomplishing a full year without a lost-time mishap.

FSD celebrates continued safety

CPL. DAMIAN MCGEE
EMBLEM STAFF

MCLB ALBANY — Maj. Daniel R. Sullivan, director, Fleet Support Division, Supply Chain Management Center here, was presented with a banner celebrating a full calendar year without a lost-time mishap, Jan. 12.

The award honors employees of the Fleet Support Division for achieving an unprecedented record of safety from Jan. 2, 2003 through today. Throughout this

time, the division has not incurred one lost-time mishap.

A lost-time mishap is an occupational injury severe enough to cause employees to lose time from work for recovery and their division to lose man-hours.

With their working environment being one of high risk for personal injury, and the last year's activities including the support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the significance of the award has been elevated to another level.



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Marines of FSD receive Outstanding Safety Performance coins from Col. Wingard for their recent achievement.

"It's unusual to have this type of record," Sullivan said. "Especially with the increased operational tempo and the support of the war, it's definitely a big deal."

Many factors have contributed to the safety of the employees throughout the year.

These contributions include committed leadership and command emphasis, education and training, self-inspections, and operational risk management.

Even with all this, "priorities" have been the one thing keeping FSD out of harm's way.

"The single most reason we've accomplished something like this is because our supervisors are always involved," Sullivan said.

"We make safety a priority from the highest to the lowest level."

In addition, FSD employees are always aware of the safest way to do things and always looking for ways to improve their service.

"Before any job is done, we

stop and ask ourselves what is the safest way to do things," said Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Detrick, maintenance chief. "Safety is always paid attention to and never shoved to the wayside."

"Everyone communicates with one another, which enables us to constantly find the best and safest way to do things," he added.

According to Merrill E. Dickinson Jr., branch head, Risk Management Office, FSD is well on its way to assisting Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany in achieving the challenge set out by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in which the SecDef asks that bases attempt to reduce mishaps throughout the next two years by 50 percent.

"FSD leads the base on operational risk management integration and have excellent employee involvement in their safety program," Dickinson said.

"They have the potential to achieve several years without a lost-time mishap."

Main Gate temporarily closed, reopens Tuesday

LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON
EMBLEM STAFF

MCLB ALBANY — The Back Gate of Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany was



LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON

Lance Cpl. Wilson K. Hillman, military policeman, PMO, checks ID cards, as the line of cars entering the Back Gate stretches more than 100 yards back.

flooded with cars due to the closing of the front gate, Jan. 11, for the addition of new security measures.

The closing of the gate, which will last until 6 a.m.,

Jan. 20, is due to the installation of the Catclaw Vehicle Stop System.

The Catclaw system is an inground set of spikes that can be remotely detonated.

"This system gives more stand-off distance from the Main Gate to certain buildings on base," said 1st Lt. Neil Davies, Deputy Provost Marshal, Provost Marshal Office here. "This will also help the sentries in case of any situation that might occur."

Davies went on to say that this is the first phase of the reconstruction and there will likely be more additions such

as this one in the future to come.

As of now, the next gate scheduled to be worked on is the Truck Gate.

This gate, which will undergo an entire rebuilding phase, will be closed from 6 p.m., Jan. 23 until sometime in June.

Bearing all of this, personnel aboard MCLB Albany are doing their best to accommodate employees as well as visitors to the base.

"There will be an alternate truck route that will run through the Human Resources Office parking lot," Davies said. "The traffic will be directed off Fleming Road through the HRO parking lot to a truck stop that will be set up at a point near the front gate."

During the Main Gate closure, the remaining gates to the base will be open during the following hours:

The Back Gate (Johnson Road) will be open 24 hours, and will accommodate visitors.

The Truck Gate (maintenance center) will be open

Command Inspector makes the hard calls

COLIE YOUNG
LOGCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MCLB ALBANY — When the command inspector enters an office, the first thought Marines and civilian employees usually have is, "oh no, who did something wrong?" Typing stops, whispers begin, and office personnel wonder where the axe will fall. But, according to the command inspector here, this kind of behavior is generated by a misconception of the inspector's actual role.

According to Command Inspector Maj. Bryan Lucas, Marine Corps Logistics Command, the Command Inspector's Office serves as an extension of the eyes and ears of the commander. In this capacity, the inspector performs several functions: assistance, inspections, investigations and overseeing the administration of allegations of fraud, waste and abuse.

"Many employees believe the inspector only looks for negative issues," Lucas said. "They feel we are looking to get someone relieved or fired, and we conduct covert operations. This couldn't be further from the truth."

Lucas said the command inspector could be called upon for a number of positive reasons, and quite often, that is the case.

"We look for the root cause of issues and find ways to make improvements," Lucas said. "We assist active duty servicemembers, Department of Defense employees, civilians or retirees on many issues. Anyone, on any level, can contact the command inspector directly and communications are held in complete confidence."

"We remain independent to all processes," added Master Sgt. Donnie Baggs, chief inspector. "We are involved in normal staffings, but we don't sign off 'concur' or 'non-concur.' We simply sign off 'noted.' The reason being, if we sign off 'concur' on an order and someone files a complaint against that order, we cannot be impartial because we concurred with the order. We have to maintain our separation."

"One misconception about the Command Inspector's Office is that we're dual-hatted as the base inspector — which we're not," Baggs continued. "The command and the base function on two different levels. Our office handles issues on the command level, and there is a base inspector who handles issues on the base level."

"In either case," Lucas said, "we are both looking for the good stories to

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COLIE YOUNG

Master Sgt. Donnie Baggs, chief inspector, LogCom, advises a base employee on an issue, while his clerk, Sgt. Mark Coachman, looks on.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW P. ROUFS

Retired general honored

Retired Army General Johnnie Wilson, former commander of US Army Materiel Command, speaks at a luncheon hosted by the National Naval Officers Association. The event, held Jan. 6 at the Crossroads Restaurant here, honored the accomplishments of Gen. Wilson's career.

Inside...

Tax season is here, MCLB is ready.
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Humanitarian aid starts here.
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Street renamed in honor of retired Marine.
Pg. 4

A Few Good Words



LT. CMDR. ROGER RICHARDS
COMMAND CHAPLAIN

‘Sleepless nights’

Do you ever have nights that you just can’t sleep? You lie in the bed and toss and turn, but sleep just does not come. No matter how still you remain, you just are not able to fall asleep. So, what do you do when you can’t sleep at night?

My wife frequently wakes up in the early hours of the morning. It will be 3 a.m., and she will balance the checkbook online, email friends and family, and do other work on the computer. Sometimes, she will turn on the television until she feels sleepy. Other times, she will crawl back into bed with me and ask me to talk with her. Unfortunately, I am usually not very good company at that time of night.

Recently, I had trouble falling asleep. No matter how hard I tried, I simply could not sleep. Finally, I went in the other room and started playing Solitaire on the computer. After a few minutes, I began taking mental stock to determine what was on my mind preventing me from sleeping. I have a friend who had recently learned that he has a serious illness. I suppose it was weighing heavily on my mind, so I decided to do the only thing I knew to do about it. I began to pray.

I am not one who normally has my prayer time in the middle of the night, but I thought that since I am up anyway, I might as well spend my time wisely. As I prayed for my friend and his family, I soon thought of others who were in need of prayer. I prayed for each of them by name as I thought of them. I wasn’t trying to look for people to pray for, but as each person slipped into my mind, I slipped them into my prayer. Before I realized it, I had spent nearly an hour in prayer and was beginning to feel sleep approaching me like a welcome friend. I slipped back into bed and was quickly asleep. When I awoke the next morning, I was refreshed, not feeling any of the ill effects of a short night of rest.

I have often heard that prayer changes things, but I believe more importantly that it changes people. I don’t go to God asking him to change someone else. I figure God already has a pretty good plan for other people without needing my counsel or advice. Instead, I simply enter into His presence and share the cares that are on my heart and mind. In the process, I find myself being changed by being in God’s presence. He doesn’t remove the area of concern, but He gives me a sense of peace, knowing that God will carry the burden so that I don’t need to. He is far more able to do that than I am.

I have also learned that as I spend this time in prayer, it helps me focus on others more, making me sensitive to their needs and concerns. It helps me focus more on others and less on myself. When I live my life more oriented to others, I find I am more at peace with myself and with God. I have a greater sense of peace and joy.

The next time you find yourself having difficulty sleeping at night, spend that time in prayer. I think that very shortly you will find yourself relaxing and ready for the complete rest that only comes when we truly turn our concerns over to God. Let Him give you peace and rest that we can never find without Him.

Semper Fi in the Lord, and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.

COMMAND RELIGIOUS PROGRAM WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday School 9 a.m.
Divine Services 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Base Chapel at 639-5282. For emergencies, call the Officer of the Day at 639-5206.

Crossroads Restaurant Menu

Today Soup of the Day Express Lunch Southern fried chicken Homemade meatloaf Macaroni & cheese Southern style greens Corn nuggets Cornbread Vernon’s cream cheese pound cake Salad bar	Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Tuesday Soup of the Day Express Lunch Sesame chicken wings Baked meatloaf Mashed potatoes Fried rice Stir fried vegetables Rolls & butter Salad bar
Friday Soup of the Day Express Lunch Baked & fried whiting Chicken pot pie Mashed potatoes Collard greens Buttered corn Cornbread muffins Salad bar	Wednesday Soup of the Day Express Lunch Sauteed cube steak w/gravy Fried & baked chicken Steamed rice Mashed potatoes Collard greens w/ham hocks Okra gumbo Pinto beans Rolls & butter Salad bar
Monday Closed	

Lunch Buffet & Lunch Buffet Takeout — \$5.95
Soup & Salad and Soup & Salad Takeout — \$3.95 (add dessert \$4.95)
Express Lunch — \$3.95

Hours of Operation — Mon. - Fri., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

2004 tax season — Time to file again

TAX CENTER STAFF

A new year has arrived, and with it comes many inevitable events including New Years’ resolutions.

The technological changes Americans have come to expect, and one that isn’t necessarily pleasant, but is equally inevitable, is tax season.

It is, indeed, income tax season once again and, as in previous years, the base will open tax centers to help active duty military personnel, family members, retirees and civilian employees prepare their 2003 tax returns.

According to Staff Sgt Anthony Turner, base legal chief, military lawyers here, their staffs and volunteers will provide these services for free.

Trained by H&R Block personnel, many of them have years of experience preparing taxes.

According to the H&R Block Web site, tax preparation costs can range from \$19.99 for filing online to more than \$100 for an in-office preparation. The cost caould be much higher, depending on the tax filing method used and the complexity of the individual return.

The less expensive option is to go to one of the three tax centers on base.

The Legal Office is located in Bldg. 3500, Room #507, will open Monday, Jan. 13. Tax services will be provided Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The civilian tax center will be located at Maintenance Center Albany. Hours of operation will be Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Both locations will terminate operations Apr. 15.

Turner emphasized that appointments for senior staff NCOs and officers can be

made on any day during the week.

Customers should bring all pertinent documents, to include: Social Security cards for all family members; a voided check from their personal checking account; 2002 tax return, including their W-2 forms; 1099 Form; mutual funds and dividend distribution information; sale of home documents; Social Security income information; copy of divorce decree for non-custodial divorced parents who are claiming a child or children as a dependent; child care expenses which includes amounts, name of the provider and identification number; and higher education expenses and costs.

Tax center personnel also ask filers with complicated returns to schedule an appointment.

Tax returns will be filed electronically, and taxpayers will receive hard copies of their returns.

For more information on the tax centers, call Staff Sgt. Turner at 639-5212.

Want better service?

CPL. DAMIAN MCGEE
EMBLEM STAFF

MCLB ALBANY – The Strategic Development Division of the Civilian Human Resources Office here has kicked off a new video series for all Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.

The nine videos, available to military and civilian employees alike, offer techniques and training in various areas of customer service.

“These videos are designed for anyone interested in sharpening and improving their customer service skills,” said Sandra Richards, training specialist. “Ican’t think of any one that wouldn’t benefit from practicing positive, energetic, and enthusiastic customer service.”

The videos, which average between 20-30 minutes, cover everything from internal coaching skills to basic telephone techniques.

“The videos are not trying to teach people things they don’t already know, but rather remind us how “Business Friendly” attitudes coupled with sensitivity to other’s feelings makes a tremendous difference in customer service,” Richards said.

According to Richards, the overall goal of the videos is to put back into society something that appar-

ently seems to be lacking currently. “Unfortunately, good customer service has been absent in some areas of our society for a little while,” Richards explained. “We’re hoping our efforts and these videos will make a difference.”

The series began playing Jan. 9. The remainder of the series will play at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the dates listed below:

Tape 2: Determining Caller Needs — Jan. 16

Tape 3: From Curt to Courteous — Jan. 23

Tape 4: Four Cs of Coaching Skills — Jan. 30

Tape 5: Five Forbidden Phrases — Feb. 6

Tape 6: Six Cardinal Rules of Customer Service — Feb. 13

Tape 7: Telesales Tips from A to Z — Feb. 20

Tape 8: Proactive Customer Service — Feb. 27

Tape 9: Basic Telephone Skills — Mar. 5

A special showing of seven additional sub-videos will take place Mar. 12.

After the completion of the series, the videos will be available for checkout at the Strategic Development Division.

For more information regarding the series, or to reserve a seat, contact Sandra Richards at 639-5256.



LANCE CPL. ANDREW P. ROUFFS

College students get taste of military life

Students from around the world attending Hartland College in Virginia and Ouachita Hills College in Arkansas took a base tour and got an opportunity to ride in a “humvee,” a 7-ton truck and a LAV during a recent visit.

Leave donations requests for employee emergencies

The Annual Leave Transfer Program may be used by employees to request to become annual leave recipients if they or a member of their family suffers a medical emergency.

To become a leave recipient, an employee must submit a copy of Optional Form 630, Leave Recipient Application Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program along with supporting medical documentation.

Anyone wishing to donate annual leave may do so by submitting an Optical Form 630-A, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave Recipient (Within agency) Under the Leave Transfer Program.

• **Carl Simpson**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Cheryl Honeck at 639-5835.

• **Daniel A. Wentzell Jr.**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for illness. Call Veronica Ferros at 639-5379 for further details.

• **Edgar Cole**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308 for further information.

• **Gerald Wells**, an employee of the Supply Chain Management Center, needs leave donations for an illness. Call Georgia Olson at 639-6534.

• **James Hayes**, an employee of G-6, needs leave donations for illness. Call Debra Capers at 639-6140.

• **Kimberly Vidal**, an employee of Logistics Operations, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Barbara Akers at 639-5565.

• **Karel Giese**, a Business Performance Office employee, needs leave donations for illness. Call Karen Phillips at 639-7161.

• **Robert A. Dickerson**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Thomas Newton at 639-6348.

• **Tracy Jo Singletary**, an employee of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Zelda M. Collier at 639-5748.

• **Ruth J Bailey**, an employee of Installation and Logistics Division, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Diane McCall at 639-5652.

• **Dottie A. Tucker**, an employee of SCMC, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Jeanette Bell at 639-8213.

• **Jerome W. Vick**, an employee

of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations for surgery. Call Mack Prater at 639-5796.

• **Kenneth E. Shiver**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member.

• **Frank Laster**, an employee of Fleet Support Division, needs leave donations for recuperation. Call Sherry Kuck at 639-5881.

• **Sandra P. Ellerson**, an employee of the Resource Management Division, needs leave donations due to illness. Call Sandy Rickett at 639-7013.

• **Reid E. Merritt**, an employee of Maintenance Center Albany, needs leave donations to care for family member. Call Brenda Brandt at 639-6308.

For more information on the program, call 639-5228.

Community Briefs

— The MCLB Pistol Range is the place to compete for great prizes during the Bowling Pin Pistol Shoot, Jan. 31. The competition is open to all active duty military, retirees, reservists, DoD civilians and their family members. Competition is limited to the first 50 entries. To register, call 639-7724.

— “Celebrate the memory.” A ceremony will be held to celebrate the life of Martin Luther King Jr., at the Base Chapel today from 11 a.m. – Noon. Chaplain Nixon will be the guest speaker.

— The Albany Municipal Auditorium will host the “Spirit of Dance” tonight at 8 p.m.

For more information, contact your local ticketmaster office, or call 430-5304.

— A pool tournament will be held today at the Staff NCO club. The competition starts at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 639-7715.

— OSC Bunko Night 2004 will be Jan. 23 at the Officers’ Club/Conference Center. Sign-in starts at 7 p.m. Play time begins at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person and is open to OSC members, Officer Club members and invited guests. You can bring a white elephant gift. RSVPTo Kat Adams at 439-9042 or through e-mail at badamsusmc@aol.com by Jan. 19



The Emblem



Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command.....Maj. Gen. Harold Mashburn Jr.
Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.....Col. Joseph R. Wingard
Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. Steve Butler
Public Affairs Chief.....Gunnery Sgt. Marion J. Martin
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Published by The Albany Herald Publishing Company, a firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps under exclusive written contract with Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

This commercial enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services. Contents of The Emblem are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the United States Marine Corps.

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Editorial content (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

MCLB offers help through humanitarian assistance program

CPL. ISAAC PACHECO
EMBLEM STAFF

A special program here that stores and distributes supplies and food to countries around the globe is making a world of difference to those in need.

This program is the Humanitarian Assistance Excess Property Program, which maintains humanitarian aid supplies in several on-base warehouses here.

The Excess Property facility here prepares the supplies for shipment to U.S. Central Command and U.S. Southern Command.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany is considered to be an ideal location because of the proximity to road, rail and airline transportation services.

"I selected this base because it's a prime location with a good traffic network and facilities to accommodate our needs," explained William Lane, program director. "This base does all of this and saves us money as well."

The program is managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency and works with the Department of Defense to prepare and transport non-lethal excess property to foreign countries when requested by the Department of State.

Through the EP program, DoD donates and distributes excess and used property to

"We want to help those countries that are trying to support themselves..."

—William Lane

support U.S. government efforts.

These efforts include averting humanitarian crises, promoting democratic development, stabilizing regions and enabling countries to recover from conflict.

The program also works to avert international crises, and therefore minimizes the need to deploy U.S. forces.

"We want to help those countries that are trying to support themselves," Lane said.

"If we didn't re-utilize this equipment, it would just end up being destroyed. By putting this otherwise wasted equipment to good use, we can aid these countries in their redevelopment efforts. By doing this, we can keep our servicemembers and peacekeepers from getting involved," he further explained.

Excess property that officials make available for humanitarian relief purposes is transferred to the Department of State, which in turn, distributes it.

Recipients include foreign government agencies, charitable organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

Once a program request is submitted and approved, DoD will provide funds for transportation, maintenance and other operating expenses associated with moving the aid to the country in need.

Some of the humanitarian supplies the program provides include such items as clothing, furniture, medical and school equipment and supplies, vehi-

cles, tools, and construction equipment.

One of the warehouses has even been refurbished and climate controlled to store food and perishable items.

"The countries that want humanitarian assistance put their requests in to (our) embassies," Lane explained.

"The embassies forward their requests to the State Department, and the (requests) that get approved get sent to us."

The excess property specialists in the Office of Humanitarian Assistance work with the commanders of CENTCOM and SOCOM.

The commands review, approve, designate, transport and deliver excess humanitarian goods.

"There is a lot of coordination and teamwork involved in getting excess property from the warehouse to the country that needs it," Lane said.

"We're fortunate enough to have a prime mover that takes care of transporting all of our supplies," he concluded.



CPL. ISAAC PACHECO

Humanitarian aid supplies are stored and maintained in several on-base warehouses here.

Military working dogs receive added protection with new body armor

CPL. ISAAC PACHECO
EMBLEM STAFF

MCLB ALBANY — Military working dog handlers here and throughout the Marine Corps have a new tool in their arsenal in the fight against crime.

The manager of the Marine Corps Working Dogs Program recently issued new body armor to K-9 units Corpwide.

The K-9 department here is testing the unique body armor, which has been specifically designed to protect their four-legged counterparts.

The new K-9 operations vests are made of woven Kevlar fiber, soft body armor panels.

With these thin body armor panels, the vest weighs only seven pounds and is strong enough to protect dogs against small arms fire and stab wounds.

The vests are manufactured to the same standards as human body armor, and are

durable enough to take multiple hits to the same area.

The extra level of protection offered by the new vests is particularly a necessity for the Marine Corps' military working dogs due to their expeditionary nature.

"The new armor is versatile enough for deployments that involve searches, tracking and extractions," explained Cpl. Daniel Hillery, military working dog handler here.

"Any day, on the base or in a deployed status, we could encounter a situation where the dog is being targeted. If we see someone as a hazard and we're going to release the



CPL. ISAAC PACHECO

Military Working Dog, "Aldo," reacts to a simulated "assailant" during a training session with his new K-9 operations vest. The new body armor is designed to protect the dogs against small arms and stab wounds.

dog on them, we'll know that the dog will be safe because he's protected," he further explained.

The vests have several features that give K-9 units pre-

viously inaccessible flexibility.

"Removable cold packs inside the vests help keep the military working dogs cool in extreme climates such as in

the Middle East," Hillery explained.

"There are also rappel loops sewn into the vest. If we want, we can climb with a dog and even rappel.

There's also a harness on the vest that allows us to parachute with the dog if we need to," he pointed out.

However, there are some drawbacks associated with the large K-9 vests. These include added weight and loss of mobility.

"It limits the dog's movements in some ways, and can make it harder for them to jump," Hillery said.

"It's extra weight on them, and at first it's a little awkward. It's kind of like the first time any Marine puts on a flak jacket and Kevlar. They're learning to work with it," he continued.

At \$1,000 apiece, the new vests are a significant investment for the Marine Corps.

Proponents of the new armor argue that the price of the vest is negligible compared to the cost of training

and caring for a new working dog.

"We get attached to the dogs because they're our partners, and we don't want to lose them," Hillery said.

"If you estimate the cost of raising, feeding and training a dog, it adds up to somewhere around \$60,000. Replacing a dog ends up being a lot more expensive and time consuming," Hillery went on to explain.

Along with the financial benefits, the new K-9 body armor is giving the Marines behind the dogs more confidence to accomplish their missions no matter what task is assigned to the unit.

"I think that it makes us feel more confident with the dogs because we know that they're going to be protected, and we feel like we can do more with them," Hillery explained.

"In any situation we encounter, I'll feel more secure knowing that the dog I rely on to get the job done is safer," he said.

13th MEU (SOC) cracks down on drug smuggling

SGT. MARK P. LEDESMA
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

ABOARD USS PELILEU
— Marines of the 13th



SGT. MARK P. LEDESMA

Staff Sgt. Kristopher K. Sit, Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, 13th MEU (SOC), helps tie in the detonating cord branch lines from the charges set in a dhow's ice compartment.

Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), along with Sailors of Expeditionary Strike Group One, interdicted a dhow bearing an

estimated 2,800 pounds of hashish while crossing the North Arabian Sea, Dec. 31.

All 15 crewmembers of the dhow were detained and questioned aboard U.S. warships. The crewmembers, along with the confiscated contraband, were later transported to Pakistan, where the vessel was registered, for further legal actions.

According to Col. Michael R. Regner, commanding officer, 13th MEU (SOC), orders to search and seize the vessel came from the Navy's 5th Fleet, which governs U.S. Naval ships conducting operations in the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean. Allied forces helped to track the dhow as U.S. Naval forces prepared for the interdiction.

Vessel Boarding Search and Seizure teams discovered the hashish underneath blocks of ice and in hidden compartments after searching the vessel for 24 hours.

"We knew by the look of some of their (crewmembers') faces that something was up," said Lance Cpl. Mark V. Anderer, Force Reconnaissance, 13th MEU (SOC), who was involved in the VBSS.

After towing the dhow for several miles, a decision was made to destroy it because of the illegal use for which it was employed.

Marine and Navy Explosives Ordnance Disposal technicians with the 13th MEU (SOC) and ESG-1 were tasked with destroying the

vessel. According to Staff Sgt. Jeffrey A. Bratcher, EOD technician, Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 13, the destruction plan for the dhow was for the massive fishing net aboard the vessel to completely sink along with it.

"We just wanted it to go down to the bottom, taking the fishing net along so there wouldn't be any navigational problems for any ships passing in the future," he said.

According to Bratcher, the sinking of the dhow went exactly as planned.

Regner agreed, saying the successful VBSS mission displayed the ESG and MEU's close relationship in putting together a very lethal package that can stop any type of high seas crime that revolves around drug trafficking, and people and weapon smuggling.

"I think what we've really seen from this is further refinement of the skills the Navy and Marines have put together," he said.

According to Regner, criminals will have to look at a different strategy for drug trafficking.

"It will have an impact on illegal drug trafficking at sea, but there's another consequence to this," Regner said.

"The drug traffickers might decide they've got to be more secretive or change their techniques," Regner continued. "As they change their (plans), we'll try to remain one step ahead of them. We'll change ours just as quickly as they change theirs."



Super Star Students Win U.S. Savings Bonds

MARINECORPSBASE QUANTICO, Va. — Five lucky students are the most recent winners of U.S. Savings Bonds in the Marine Corps Exchange Super Star Student Program. There are still hundreds of prizes available to win. The winners are:

\$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond
Ryan Holmberg, 8th grade, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

\$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond
Jacob Little, 11th grade, Yuma, Ariz.

\$500 U.S. Savings Bond
Frederick Kerrigan, 8th grade, Henderson Hall, Va.

\$500 U.S. Savings Bond
Wendy Romine, 8th grade, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

\$500 U.S. Savings Bond
Brandon Stevens, 11th grade, Barstow, Calif.

Each of the 16 Marine Corps exchanges are rewarding patrons in grades six through 12, who maintain a B average or better for the grading period.

Since the program kicked off in September 2001, thousands of students have flocked to their local MCX to participate.

Super Star Students receive one scratch-off card per grading period with the chance to win prizes such as MCX gift certificates, disposable cameras, phone cards, gum machines, portfolios and clothing.

There are three grand prizes per main exchange to include a \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond and two \$500 U.S. Savings Bonds.

Marines march toward paperless environment

Sgt. Christopher D. Reed
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — During the recent holiday period, hundreds of Marines here assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base, submitted their leave requests via a new Marine Online option being tested.

The new MOLOption is designed to eliminate the paper-based request and replace it with an electronic submission, recommendation and approval process using the Internet-based system.

This is one of several modules scheduled to transform paper submissions of information to electronic, using the MOLsystem.

According to Staff Sgt. Sean R. Riley, operations chief, Manpower Information System Support Office, the initiative, currently being tested only at Marine Corps Base, gives the individual Marine the opportunity to be more involved in the administrative process.

"If a Marine has an MOL account, he can submit his request from any personal computer or resource center," Riley said. "Once

the request is submitted, the Marine is afforded the opportunity to forward the request to appropriate personnel."

Once logged onto MOLand after selecting the "Leave" tab, Marines are prompted to provide the routine information such as their leave address, phone number and requested dates.

However, the Marines must also identify those who provide recommendation for approval and the approving officer appropriately.

This posed some challenges. According to Chief Warrant Officer-3 Dean A. Roberts, personnel officer, Headquarters and Support Battalion, all requests should be forwarded via the chain of command.

"(Marines) should not be forwarding leave requests directly to the company commanding officer. (Submission goes) only to their immediate supervisor, or the supervisor who has been given permission to make a recommendation for the Marine," Roberts explained.

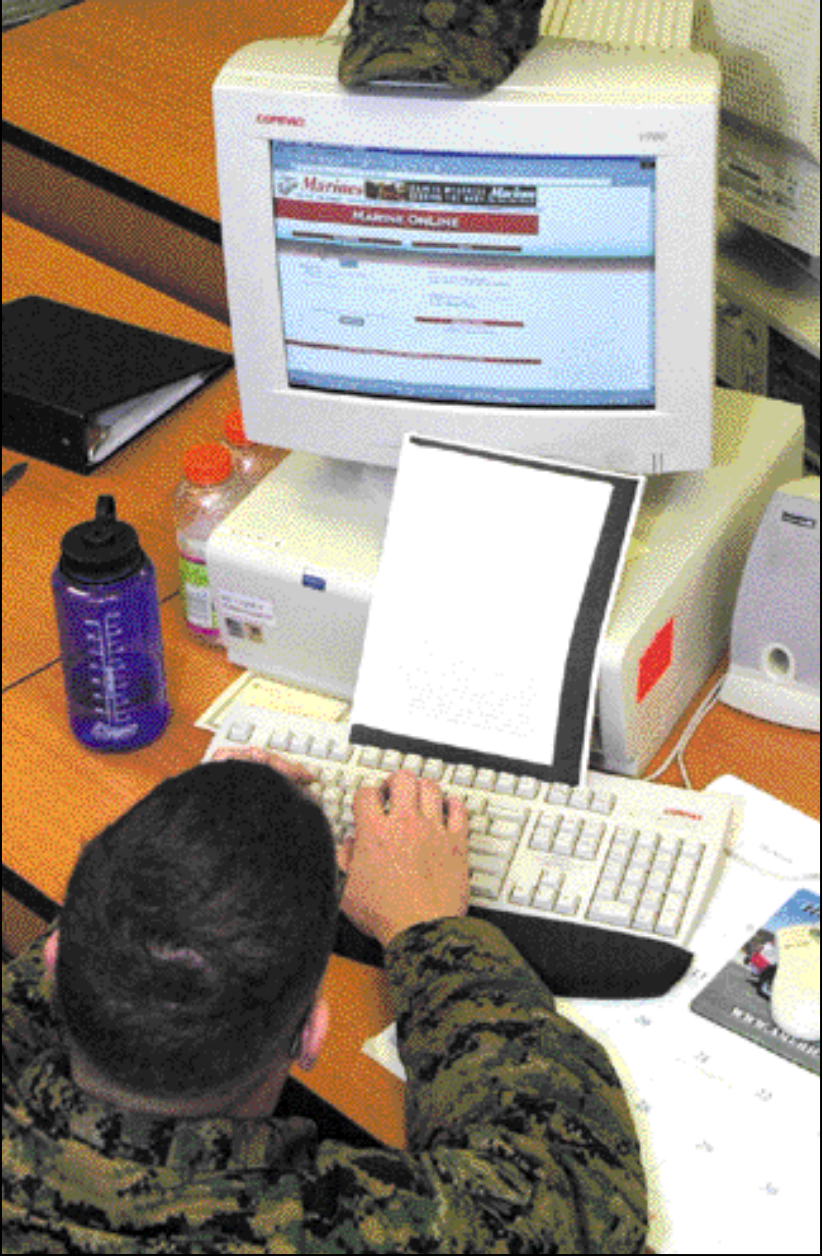
"Section heads or the officer-in-charge should forward requests to the company representative who has approval authority," Roberts added.

Despite minor issues with the new leave management process, there are a number of benefits, according to Riley.

"By moving the administrative functions to online services, it gives Marines at all levels visibility on the administrative process," said the Austin, Texas native. "Also, you don't have to worry about (leave requests) getting lost."

Roberts said the move toward a paperless environment will also include MOL use in reporting promotion recommendations, morning reports, and eventually incorporating the reporting of Proficiency and Conduct marks.

"MOL is an administrative tool that will provide Marines and their leaders more power and visibility over administrative processes, and will eventually serve as the main link between Marines and their personal records," Roberts said.



Sgt. Christopher D. Reed

Marine Corps Base personnel are acting as the test bed for eliminating paperwork and streamlining administrative requirements to include submission and approval of leave requests, promotion recommendations, morning reports and eventually Proficiency and Conduct marks.



Official File Photo

NMCI starts now

EMBLEM STAFF

Editor's note — This is the last installment of a four-part series of articles designed to inform individuals of the upcoming transition to the Navy Marine Corps Intranet Environment.

MCLB ALBANY — The NMCI Cutover has begun to impact workstations here.

The specific schedule must remain flexible since location (building number) and software application availability is instrumental in when a user will be transitioned. Users will be notified prior to actual cutover date for their individual computer. Users will have data transferred to a "master folder" so that the data can be reinstalled on the transitioned desktop. Users should also, as standard procedure, save critical files to a disk or shared workspace. C-4 (Command, Control, Communication and Computers) and EDS (Electronic Data Systems) will be transferring files to your new machine but will want you to take action to ensure that critical data is available from an alternate source just in case some files are corrupted or missed in the transfer.

Users will be assigned a new e-mail address, login ID and password from the technician who is convert-

ing their machine to NMCI configuration or installing their new NMCI workstation.

After the PC is changed over, one of the first things users will need to do is verify that all their software application work as they did prior to the conversion. This step is critical to ensure that users maintain accessibility to the software required to accomplish their job. Some applications have failed to pass the Commandant of the Marine Corps' C4 waiver process or the NMCI compatibility test. Every effort has been made to notify users of the failed applications and ensure that the functionality is provided in an alternative source. With cooperation and active participation of IT(information technology) users, the transition should not be disruptive and will provide user with quality IT support over the long term.

Things to remember when becoming an NMCI user: (Note: An EDS representative will be available to assist with these tasks)

- Check workstation for software availability. (Users should ensure they have what they had before.)
- Change password. At least eight (8) characters with one capital letter and one special character is required. Password cannot be reset for at least 24 hours.
- Fill out the User Asset Information Form and e-mail it to the NMCI Helpdesk. An EDS cutover technician will assist with this task.

This should get started as an NMCI customer. More information and details will follow.

NMCI CTRS (customer technical representatives) are: Melvin Hines, 639-6145; Sandy Stalvey: 639-5333; and Dave Brooks, 639-6666.



Courtesy of Moultrie Observer

After being honored in a recent renaming ceremony, Gunnery Sgt. Ellis Hanks Jr. (second from right) stands proudly with his wife and two sons in front of the street renamed in honor of him.

Cpl. Isaac Pacheco
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

MOULTRIE, Ga. — Sometimes ordinary people are called upon to perform under extraordinary circumstances when they least expect it. This, however, is what happened to one former base resident.

When Staff Sgt. Ellis Hanks Jr. got in his car on Aug. 3, 1987 in Helsinki, Finland, he was expecting to go to the movies and spend a quiet evening with his wife.

He'd promised to take her to dinner that night but his work as the detachment commander of the embassy had kept him late, and he wanted to make it up to her.

He hadn't planned on witnessing a woman jumping from the highest bridge in the city or that he would dive into the frigid Baltic Sea after her.

He never once imagined that he'd have to swim 100 meters with a struggling victim nor that he'd have to resuscitate her on shore.

Hanks never counted on becoming a hero to a woman, a city, and a

nation that night, but that's exactly what happened.

Hanks, now retired from the Marine Corps, takes a humble approach to the event that made him a hero.

"I just did my job," Hanks said. "I didn't think about the jump or the water because I was a water safety instructor. I knew that if I could find the woman who jumped, I could save her. When I submerged, I felt her neck under the water and pulled her up. She was struggling against me, but I just used my training to keep her arms-length distance from me while I dragged her back to the shore."

Hanks a Moultrie, Ga., native and Albany resident, served here as a senior instructor at the Noncommissioned Officer Academy and was assigned to Headquarters Battalion training unit before retiring as a gunnery sergeant in 1997.

Hanks was the first American to be presented with the Finnish Life Saving Medal, an honor that can only be bestowed by the president of Finland. The award is presented to those who save human life by rescue-related or medically-related efforts. He was also honored with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest award for heroism given to Marines in a non-combat situation.

Aside from the awards he received from the military and the Finnish government for his act of self-sacrifice, Hanks was recently given an honor that struck closer to home.

On Dec. 2, 2003., the city of Moultrie renamed a street to commemorate the actions of their local hero. During the ceremony, city officials honored Hanks among his friends and family and re-christened 9th Avenue NW., the street he grew up on, Ellis Hanks Jr. Ave.

"I never expected all the media attention I received, but I was thankful that it reflected positively on the Marine Corps," Hanks said. "In 1987, there were rumors floating around about Marine guards at the Moscow embassy leaking security secrets. It was just good to see a story that shined a positive light on the Marine Corps during such a critical time in our history."

EFV passes rigorous testing phase

STAFF SGT. CINDY FISHER
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

WOODBIDGE, Va. — The Marine Corps’ newest expeditionary asset is the latest in a series of vehicles that began with the Roebling Alligator in 1932. The new vehicle, formerly known as the Advanced Assault Amphibious Vehicle, was recently renamed the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle.

In the 20th century, the Corps’ focus was on amphibious operations, but the 21st century focus is shifting to expeditionary operations, said Lt. Gen. Emil R. Bedard, deputy commandant for Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters Marine Corps, during his speech at the renaming ceremony at the Worth Avenue Technology Center in Woodbridge, Va., Sept. 10. Changing the name of the vehicle reflects this cultural change in the Marine Corps’ warfighting concepts.

In other words, “a rose by any other name would still smell like burnt oil and diesel fuel,” according to Col. Clayton F. Nans, the direct reporting program manager at the technology center. Nans added that this vehicle, which is unique to the Marine Corps, has seen a lot of improvements from the original design and better compliments the expeditionary nature of the Corps’ current warfighting concepts.

The EFV, along with the MV-22 “Osprey” and the Landing Craft Air-Cushioned, are the future of Marine Corps warfighting, said Lt. Gen. Bedard. “It is about being able to go where we want to go and to be able to go as deep and fast as we need to. (The EFV) is the vehicle that will take us from farther out to sea, to deeper into the heart of the enemy.”

The predecessor to the EFV, the Assault Amphibian Vehicle, has been in service for almost 40 years. The vehicle, which was originally fielded in 1972, has been overhauled and upgraded numerous times throughout its career but a 1988 Mission Area Analysis determined that it was deficient to meet the Corps’ needs in areas such as water and land speed, firepower, armor protection and system survivability.

“The Marine Corps has always been an expeditionary force,” said Charles M. Hall, president of General Dynamics Land Systems, which was awarded the contract to develop and demonstrate the vehicle in February 2001. “This new vehicle’s capabilities must surpass previous amphibious vehicles so the Marine Corps can continue to exploit the sea and the land.”

The EFV will exceed the requirements set forth by the Marine Corps, Hall said. “We have demonstrated most of those requirements. The EFV will provide the capabilities necessary for the 21st century Marine.”

The vehicle is expected to exceed the water speed of the AAV by three times, have a land mobility equal to or greater than an M1-A1 tank, have increased survivability features than the AAV, provide command and control capabilities to subordinate, adjacent and higher units, and provide nuclear, biological and chemical protection for its crew and accompanying troops.

Lance Cpls. Edward J. Castleberry and Kenneth D. Koonce, both AAV operators and veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, recently had a chance to put the EFV through some of its paces.

“Its awesome, absolutely years and years more advanced than what we have now,” said Castleberry, a crew chief with 2nd Amphibious Assault Battal-



COURTESY OF GENERAL DYNAMICS

Marines and General Dynamics Amphibious Systems technicians put the Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle through rigorous testing to ensure it will meet the requirements mandated by the Marines Corps. The Marine Corps is slated to purchase a total of 1,013 EFVs at a total cost of about 6.7 billion dollars.

ion out of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

It is way better than the one we have right now — a lot more firepower and speed,” added Koonce, an AAV crewman based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“EFV is much more than an Amphibious Assault Vehicle, and truly represents a transformational leap in technology and capability beyond any previous Assault Amphibian. EFV will be one of the most capable and advanced fighting vehicles ever fielded,” said Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, in a letter to the Direct Reporting Program Manager of the EFV program.

The EFV program entered the system development and demonstration phase of the acquisition cycle in December 2000. Since receiving the SSD contract, General Dynamics Land Systems subsidiary General Dynamics Amphibious Systems has been fabricating and testing the second generation of the vehicle. They have completed three, and will build a total of nine of the second generation prototypes and one live-fire test vehicle at the Worth Center facility. They will also develop the low-rate initial production design.

Looking ahead, General Dynamics Amphibious Systems expects to enter into operational assessments in Fiscal Year 2005, according to Hall. Extensive testing of the reliability, survivability and capabilities of the prototype vehicles will continue throughout the SSD phase.

“This is a long-term program and a third generation of the EFV will be developed before it is fielded,” Nans said. “We expect to begin fielding the EFV in Fiscal Year 2008.”

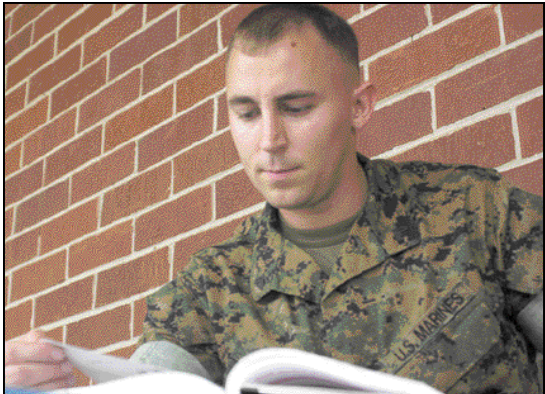
Currently, a total of 1,013 EFVs are scheduled to be built and delivered through Fiscal Year 2018 — 935 EFVPs for personnel, and 78 EFVC command vehicles. General Dynamics has selected a Prince William County facility for production of the EFV.

Dougherty Comprehensive High School 2003-'04 Varsity Basketball Schedule			
Date	Opponent	Location	Time
1/16	Thomas Co.	Dougherty	7 p.m.
1/17-19	MLK Shoot Out	Chicago, IL	TBA
1/20	Crisp Co.	Crisp	6 p.m.
1/23	Cairo	Cairo	7 p.m.
1/24	Mitchell-Baker	Mitchell-Baker	7 p.m.
1/27	Bainbridge	Bainbridge	6 p.m.
1/30	Ware Co.	Ware Co.	6 p.m.
1/31	Monroe	Monroe	7 p.m.
2/3	Thomas Co.	Thomas Co.	6 p.m.
2/6	Crisp Co.	Dougherty	7 p.m.
2/7	Albany	Albany Civic Center	TBA

Interested in college? Go to Base education Office! Preparing for deployment

LANCE CPL. KEVIN J. RIDLON
EMBLEM STAFF

It is the time of year that college comes into consideration by many Marines and civilians. With the interest may come questions such as how to get started, where to get help, and how to pay for it.



OFFICIAL FILE PHOTO

No need to worry, because Trink Polite, the test examiner at the Base Education Office, is ready and willing to answer any questions regarding how to get started on getting an education.

"My job is to administer all tests and provide proctoring for distant learning students," Polite said. "I am

also the education counselor and career advisor."

There are many different options that can help people get their education, despite hectic work schedules.

"The first thing I do is sit with the person and see if they have any college experience," Polite said. "I then look at what kind of job they have. If their job involves travel, then we look more at distant learning."

For those who would rather attend classes at a local college, there are plenty to choose from.

There are three schools in Albany: Albany State University, a four-year school, Darton College, a two-year school and Albany Technical, a vocational school.

Georgia Southwestern, a four-year school in Americus, Abraham Baldwin culture school in Tifton and Valdosta State University in Valdosta are other colleges that are not in Albany, but not too far away.

Many schools send representatives on base to talk to prospective

students. Troy State, VSU and ASU come every Wednesday, and Albany Technical comes on the first Thursday of every month.

"We come out to talk to people and answer any questions," said Royce Oliver, VSU representative. "We let them know what kind of programs we offer."

Marines and civilians who want to start college courses for the first time have to take an entrance exam.

Besides the entrance exam, some colleges require that you take the Scholastic Aptitude Test or the American Aptitude Test. Both of these exams are giving at the Base Education Office. If money is an issue, there are programs that will help.

"We offer Tuition Assistance for military," Polite said. "The military pays \$4,500 a year, or \$250 per credit hour."

For more information about continuing your education or starting it, contact Ms. Polite at 639-5162.

When a servicemember is deployed, family members left behind may deal with feelings of anxiety, loneliness and fear. The adjustment can take weeks, or even months.

That's why the Marine Corps provides Marine Corps Community Services One Source, a pre-paid resource that can help you implement your plans in preparation for deployment, including how to:

- Find local resources, especially for family members who do not live near a base.
- Establish and maintain an effective family care plan.
- Manage the details of running a household with one less person.
- Find new ways to adjust your budget and save money.
- Review child care and elder care arrangements and find backup, new, or temporary care if necessary.

- Cope with any feelings of stress and anxiety, and locate support groups to help deal with fear, loneliness and other issues caused by separation.
- Log on to Web site www.mccsonesource.com to read or download the following informative articles:

"Coping with the Deployment of a Spouse or Partner"
"How to Help a Young Child Cope with a Parent's Deployment"
"Staying in Touch When a Family Member Has Been Deployed"

To read or download life articles, just go to www.mccsonesource.com and click on "This Month's Feature," or call MCCS One Source today.

From the U.S., dial 1-800-869-0278; From outside the U.S. (where available), dial 1-800-869-02788; or call collect: 484-530-5884.

MCCS One Source is brought to you by the Marine Corps, at no cost. And best of all, it's here for you any time of day, wherever you are. So get in touch with us today. We have consultants who speak Spanish and offer simultaneous translation into more than 140 other languages. TTY/TDD and accessibility Web site also available online at www.mccsonesource.com, User ID: marines; Password: semper fi. En español, llame al 1-888-732-9020. TTY/TDD: 1-800-346-9188.

School of the rocker: Staff sergeants share secrets



STAFF SGT. BILL LISBON

Career Course instructor Gunnery Sgt. Amsony Mondragon checks for proper chevron placement during a uniform inspection.

STAFF SGT. BILL LISBON
COMBAT CORRESPONDENT

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Sure, the instructors will fill your brain-housing group to the brim with great information that every staff sergeant should know, but that's only half the story, according to recent graduates.

For students coming out of the Career Course, some of the greatest lessons learned are those from the Marines to their left and right.

The seven-week Career Course serves as resident professional military education for sergeants selected for promotion and staff sergeants. Courses are offered at all of the Marine Corps' four Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academies located here, Camp Lejeune, N.C., Quantico, Va., and Okinawa, Japan.

They share the same rank, but draw on experience from all walks of life in the Corps. Student staff sergeants can range anywhere from six to 16 years of time in uniform. From the Corps' nooks and crannies come cooks, drill instructors, administrators, reconnaissance team leaders, explosive ordnance disposal specialists and super high-frequency aviation radar technicians, just to name a few.

This wide array of wisdom is

shared when living day-in and day-out with each other.

Haven't touched an NCO sword in years? Don't worry, because the Marine next to you can probably teach you.

Never written a combat order? Then look to the experience of the grunt in your class.

"The majority of what I learned at the academy was from the other staff sergeants," said Staff Sgt. Ronald E. Miller of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Miller, based at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., recently graduated the Career Course here.

"Myself being a 'young' staff sergeant of about six months I learned a lot from the personal experiences shared by the others," he said.

To further tap into each other's wisdom, numerous guided discussion periods allow the students to tackle tough contemporary leadership challenges like fraternization and sexual harassment.

Interaction with the various staff sergeants allows students to pick up on some of their leadership styles that they can incorporate into their own.

Command — from Page 1
share throughout LogCom and for ways to improve processes, which is the main reason we conduct inspections."

"As the LogCom Command Inspector, we handle any issues the general is responsible for," Lucas pointed out. "We also travel to Bartow, Calif., and to Blount Island Command in Jacksonville, Fla., to handle LogCom-level issues in those areas."

"If we find things are inappropriate," Lucas continued, "or if we find things are not being done correctly, or can be improved greatly, we will brief MajGen. Mashburn. It is important for people to understand the command inspector does not have a side to defend, and is not an advocate for anyone. We are an independent reviewer of processes. We make the hard calls, or do the more difficult right, vice the easier wrong."

In a nutshell, the command inspector serves the interests of the entire Marine Corps family by assisting commanders, Marines, family members, civilian employees, retirees and other civilians.

The inspector is not an advocate for the command, or for the individual, but rather is a fair and impartial fact-finder to look at the process. Employees wishing to speak with someone from the Command Inspector's Office on issues related to waste, fraud and abuse, or similar matters can call office personnel at (229) 639-7101 or 639-6212, or e-mail the command at mblogcom-cmdinsp@logcom.usmc.mil.

The Command Inspector's Office is located in Building 3500, Room 111.